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Editor's Forum

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EDITOR'S FORUM

Welcome to another issue of the JAAER. We are pleased to share four interesting articles with you. Our first article titled *A Design for Inspiring Students with Near-Space Exploration*, addresses an issue which has received a lot of attention during the past few years: science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. Authors Jeremy Straub, Dr. Ronald Revig, and Dr. Gail Ingwalson state that in order for the United States to remain competitive with the rest of the world, it needs employees who have been educated in STEM disciplines. A solution is to encourage students to pursue fields related to near-space exploration. This article provides a design plan that addresses this issue.

Our second article titled *Predictive Power of English Testing: Training International Flight Students*, discusses flight training research conducted by Mark Dusenbury and Dr. Elizabeth Bjerke. The article examines the performance of Chinese students who undertook their flight training in a U.S. flight program with English exam scores. Applying various statistical tools, the authors determined that significant relationships exist between student English screening scores, academic grades, and flight performance.

With the amount of consolidation that has occurred in the U.S. airline industry during the past several years, it is appropriate to consider how smaller carriers have managed to stay competitive. In their article, *Spirit Airlines: Achieving a Competitive Advantage Through Ultra-Low Costs*, authors James Elian and Gerald N. Cook, explain the business strategy behind the carrier's growth plan. The article provides important insight into how airlines price the services they offer their customers.

This issue's final article is titled *The Wright Lawsuit*. Author David Freiwald discusses the challenges that the Wright brothers faced in their effort to protect their patent rights. The article also addresses the impact that the Wright brothers' actions had upon the readiness of the U.S. in World War I.

Feel free to explore older articles on-line. The entire collection of published articles is now available via the JAAER's website. One can access the articles on-line and download them as well.

Enjoy this edition of the JAAER. As always, I welcome any feedback that you may have about the Journal. Feel free to contact me at friedend@erau.edu.

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